

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

**SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008**

**SITUATION REPORT # 6**

**0900 Hours May 2, 2008**

*The next Situation Report will be May 3, 2008 at 0900 hours.*

## SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 8; two EF 0 tornadoes - Gloucester and Mathews Counties, five EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights and the counties of Brunswick, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Halifax. In addition, NWS confirmed an EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center continues to receive reports of storm related damage from these jurisdictions and state agencies. Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** *The VEOC has transitioned to Recovery Operations with limited additional staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations will be coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.* The VDEM Technical Support Unit (TSU) that deployed to Suffolk Fire Station #3 demobilized on 29 April.

**State of Emergency:** At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April.

**Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time. FEMA Region III deployed a State Liaison Officer to the State EOC on 28 April. The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) – Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared:  
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.  
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.  
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.  
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:  
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.  
City of Suffolk Open.

**ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Fielding local, national and international media inquiries. Providing public information and awareness for tornado and disaster preparedness and promoting cash donations for casualties of the recent Virginia tornadoes. Coordinating press releases with various agencies to include a Press Release from Virginia Department of Taxation reference tax relief granted for victims of the tornadoes. [Tax Relief Granted for Victims of Tornadoes](#)

## WEATHER

**Forecast:** Friday, May 2, 2008: *Partly sunny; high temperatures low to mid 80's; winds 5-15 MPH in West Central, Northwest and Southwest VA with gusts up to 25 MPH in Southwest VA; winds 10-20 MPH in Central, Southeast and Northern VA.* Friday Night: *Partly cloudy; low temperatures mid 50's to low 60's; winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 20 MPH in Southwest VA.* Saturday, May 3, 2008: *Chance of showers and*

***thunderstorms in Southwest, West Central and Northwest VA; some thunderstorms in Southwest VA may become severe with main threat damaging winds and hail and possible isolated tornadoes; mostly sunny for remainder of state; high temps mid 70's to mid 80's; winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH in Southwest VA.***

## **OPERATIONS SECTION**

***Local Liaison:***

Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg on 29 April. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg remains on scene assisting City of Suffolk.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH**

***ESF 9 – Search and Rescue*** Request for SAR cadaver dog teams to do sweeps of debris and damaged homes was completed 29 April with negative results. Civil Air Patrol completed two air missions one with NWS, VDEM Regional Coordinator, and local officials. The other involved taking digital images of affected areas. All Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flyover missions have been completed as of 1830 hours, 29 April and are back at base. Aerial photos will be sent to the VDEM SAR Coordinator for evaluation.

***ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:***

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams released.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:  
City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released  
Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”  
BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released  
BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”  
Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released  
Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

***Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) activated and nine (9) volunteers supporting American Red Cross. Currently planning for “Community Clean Up” scheduled for 10 May.***

***The Community Services Board is present at the Suffolk Disaster Recovery Center, Westminster Church and the Hillpoint, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddlers and Elephant Fork areas providing mental health services.***

***ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:***

Virginia State Police (VSP)  
***VSP currently has 50 troopers on special assignment in Suffolk and is anticipated to downsize to 39 troopers at 1000 hours, 2 May 2008 supporting impacted jurisdictions.***

## **HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

***ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery***

**Initial Damage Assessment Reports:**

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	<b>\$28,571,008</b>	\$250,000

Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
Total	<b>\$31,965,008</b>	\$250,000

***A comprehensive Preliminary Damage Assessment for Individual Assistance was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk utilizing three teams that included representatives from FEMA, SBA, and the state. Summary results are currently being evaluated. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Preliminary Damage Assessments for Individual Assistance have been scheduled for Brunswick County and the City of Colonial Heights on 2 May to survey residential and business damage. A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) was opened by the City of Suffolk in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on 1 May. Over 100 households sought information or assistance on the first day. The DRC included representatives from city departments, state agencies, private insurance companies, and voluntary organizations. It is anticipated that the center will remain open at least until Sunday, 4 May. A conference call was conducted with Suffolk City Manager, Fire Chief and other city officials in regard to debris management issues and policies. VDEM representatives attended City of Suffolk Town Hall meeting on 30 April which was well organized and attended.***

#### **ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations**

Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference call was held on 29 April at 1700 hours. The following are highlights from the call: Operation Blessing reported providing 300 meals at the request of the American Red Cross on 29 April for emergency workers and responders. The Southern Conservatives have 6 debris/chain saw teams on standby to respond on 30 April to assist with debris removal. Baptist General Convention has child care teams on standby. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope is deploying teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal. The United Methodist Conference volunteers are working with feeding stations and will continue through the week.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

#### **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

**The American Red Cross** ARC Southside Chapter is providing food at the Southpark Mall primarily to first responders. Many donations have been collected from surrounding churches, Wal-Mart, and local restaurants. ***Approximately 1767 meals were served on 30 April from 2 fixed feeding sites and 2 mobile feeding units with a total of 3349 served to date from 3 fixed feeding sites and 6 mobile feeding units. Four Emergency Response Vehicles responded 30 April. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. No Red Cross Shelters are opened at this time. As of 1 May the total number of clients sheltered overnight was 65.*** No ARC shelter has been opened or anticipated. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. Shelter at Kings Fork High School housed 51 people 28 April. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com), "How You Can Help." ***The Red Cross Service Center will be located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA.***

### **INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH**

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
VDOT reported as of 1000 hours 30 April all roads reopened.

**ESF 12 – Energy:** As of 0730 hours 1 May, Dominion Virginia Power reported power restored to all impacted areas.

## **LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 – Resource Support** VDEM is supporting four active resource requests. Four requests have been completed and 3 requests have been cancelled. All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

## **PLANNING SECTION**

**ESF 5 – Situation Unit** *Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness*

**Plans Unit** Governor's Executive Order drafted and submitted

**Mapping/GIS Unit** *Providing support to localities and state agencies*

## **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

**City of Suffolk:** Sentara Obici Hospital reported to be fully operational with some minor damage. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg remains on scene. There are 407 homes total that have been tagged as damaged. Jurisdiction shelter at Kings Fork High school closed as of 1000 hours 30 April. As of 0930 hours 30 April, all roads are now open. All schools opened as of 1 May. A 6 station call center has been established for citizen calls at the City Recreational Department. Donations are being channeled through the Red Cross. Tetanus vaccines are being provided by the local public health agency for responders and some others. Over 750 citizens attended the Community Information Meeting held on 30 April to discuss debris issues, insurance issues and future recovery efforts. A Disaster Response Center will be opening at 1000 hrs 1 May in the City of Suffolk Recreation Center located at Kings Fork Middle School. Hours of operation will be 1000 hrs – 2000 hrs through at least Sunday, 4 May.

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-409-7729). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be "microchip" scanned. Virginia Beach SPCA has returned to Virginia Beach. No more animal feed is needed for donations.

**York County:** The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.

**City of Chesapeake:** Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.

**City of Colonial Heights:** Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area estimated at \$2,000,000.

**Isle of Wight County:** Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.

**Halifax County:** Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.

**Brunswick County:** Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with wind between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local

Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. 14 homes have been damaged and the estimate of damage is \$650,000. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels.

***City of Portsmouth:***

Reports of minor damage in the Churchland (northeastern) section of the city. Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk. City is currently working on damage assessment.

***City of Newport News:***

Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.

***James City County:***

10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable. Estimated damage totals \$217,000.

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